

I feel that the FCC should NOT mandate any form of copy protection to be included in HDTV standards.

The primary focus of any standards regulation should be to provide maximum access to all media consumers and providers (a line which is increasingly blurred). Copy protection would accomplish just the opposite, much as it has done with DVD-CSS.

DVD CSS is used, not as a technical solution to a problem but as a political one, to prevent small companies from competing with existing studios, and small DVD appliance manufacturers from competing with large consumer electronics companies. While the CSS algorithm no longer a secret and is now completely useless from a technical standpoint, it is still used to prosecute, under the DMCA, those who design software and hardware without the approval of the major players.

Because broadcast television uses a public resource, radio bandwidth, the FCC is in a unique position to prevent a similar situation from occurring with HDTV. Please keep this medium as safe for competition and free speech as is possible under the circumstances.